

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF

SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKET NOS. 95-862-C & 95-720-C - ORDER NO. 95-1044 ✓

MAY 10, 1995

IN RE: Docket No. 95-862-C - Proceeding to	)	ORDER
Investigate Southern Bell Telephone	)	GRANTING
& Telegraph Company's 1994 Earnings	)	RECONSIDERATION
	)	AND COMBINING
AND	)	DOCKETS FOR
	)	HEARING PURPOSES
Docket No. 95-720-C - Application of	)	
Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph	)	
Company for Alternative Regulation.	)	

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of Southern Bell Telephone & Telegraph Company (Southern Bell or the Company) to combine the Earnings Review Docket of Southern Bell's 1994 earnings with the pending Application for Alternative Regulation. A procedural history on this matter is appropriate.

On April 18, 1995, the Commission considered a report by the Commission Staff on the earnings of Southern Bell for the twelve (12) months ending December 31, 1994. As a result of this Report, this Commission decided to set the matter of the Company's earnings for hearing prior to the hearing scheduled in Docket No. 95-720-C, concerning Southern Bell's Alternate Regulation Plan.

On April 25, 1995, Southern Bell filed a request with this Commission that the Commission combine the Earnings Docket with

the Application for Alternate Regulation for hearing purposes. Southern Bell asserted in that request that it believed that the issue of the 1994 earnings and prices for its services will be substantially the same in both proceedings. Southern Bell went on to state since the 1994 earnings review and hearing on Southern Bell's Application for Alternative Regulation and approval of its Consumer Price Protection Plan would address substantially identical issues, Southern Bell believed that a more efficient use of the Commission's hearing time and Staff's time, together with considerably less expense for the parties would be accomplished by consolidating the proceedings for hearing purposes.

This matter came before the Commission for consideration on May 2, 1995, at which time this Commission voted to deny Southern Bell's reconsideration request, and maintain separate hearings in the two matters.

On May 9, 1995, one of the Commissioners on the prevailing side moved to reconsider the vote of May 2, 1995. This Motion passed. A Motion was then made to grant Southern Bell's request of April 25, 1995 to combine both matters for hearing purposes.

The Commission has examined this matter and now agrees with the reasoning stated in Southern Bell's April 25, 1995 letter. We believe that the issue of 1994 earnings for the Company and prices for its services will be substantially the same in both proceedings. We think that the issues to be addressed in the two proceedings will be substantially identical. We agree that a more efficient use of the Commission's hearing time will be

accomplished by consolidation of the proceedings, and that, further, less expense to the parties will result by consolidating the proceedings. Because of this reasoning,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

1. The matters in Docket Nos. 95-862-C and 95-720-C are hereby consolidated for hearing purposes.

2. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director

(SEAL)